

Tribunal, and the United States has done so by providing, since 1992, funding in the amount of \$54,000,000 in assessed payments and more than \$11,000,000 in voluntary and in-kind contributions to the Tribunal and the War Crimes Commission which preceded it, and by supplying information collected by the United States that can aid the Tribunal's investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications;

Whereas any lasting, peaceful solution to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia must be based upon justice for all, including the most senior officials of the government or governments responsible for conceiving, organizing, initiating, directing, and sustaining the Yugoslav conflict and whose forces have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide; and

Whereas Slobodan Milosevic has been the single person who has been in the highest government offices in an aggressor state since before the inception of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, who has had the power to decide for peace and instead decided for war, who has had the power to minimize illegal actions by subordinates and allies and hold responsible those who committed such actions, but did not, and who is once again directing a campaign of ethnic cleansing against innocent civilians in Kosovo while treating with contempt international efforts to achieve a fair and peaceful settlement to the question of the future status of Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States should publicly declare that it considers that there is reason to believe that Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

(2) the United States should make collection of information that can be supplied to the Tribunal for use as evidence to support an indictment and trial of President Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide a high priority;

(3) any such information concerning President Slobodan Milosevic already collected by the United States should be provided to the Tribunal as soon as possible;

(4) the United States should provide a fair share of any additional financial or personnel resources that may be required by the Tribunal in order to enable the Tribunal to adequately address preparation for, indictment of, prosecution of, and adjudication of allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity posed against President Slobodan Milosevic and any other person arising from the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, including in Kosovo;

(5) the United States should engage with other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other interested states in a discussion of information any such state may hold relating to allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity posed against President Slobodan Milosevic and any other person arising from the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, including in Kosovo, and press such states to promptly provide all such information to the Tribunal;

(6) the United States should engage with other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other interested states in a discussion of measures to be taken to apprehend indicted war criminals and persons indicted for crimes against humanity with the objective of concluding a plan of action that will result in these indictees' prompt delivery into the custody of the Tribunal; and

(7) the United States should urge the Tribunal to promptly review all information re-

lating to President Slobodan Milosevic's possible criminal culpability for conceiving, directing, and sustaining a variety of actions in the former Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, that have had the effect of genocide, of other crimes against humanity, or of war crimes, with a view toward prompt issuance of a public indictment of Milosevic.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I thank this body and thank all of my colleagues for their support of what I consider to be a very important initiative. I certainly hope that the House acts quickly on this. I believe this is the least that we can and should do.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 15 minutes.

### LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, we are at some time going to take up the legislative branch appropriations bill formally. I wanted to make a couple of comments in response to the comments made by the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Branch.

Senator BENNETT spoke about this work of the subcommittee. I have said before and I will say again I think he is an awfully good legislator. I appreciate very much the opportunity to work with him. We have worked in a cooperative spirit, in a bipartisan way, and have brought to the floor of the Senate a bill that I think reflects the right priorities and the prudent expenditure of the taxpayers' money for the things that are important and necessary.

I especially wish to commend Senator BENNETT. For those who don't know about his work on what is called Y2K or the year 2000 problem, I must say, having sat through all of the hearings we held, in every instance with every agency and every department, Senator BENNETT has been very determined to make certain that we are on the road to addressing the problems that confront us with the turn of the century and the programming and the computer software that exists around our country, and he has, of course, since been named chairman of a panel on this issue. A lot of people don't think too much about it because it is a year and a half away, but it is a very important issue. Senator BENNETT has been a leader on that issue, and I think the Senate owes him a debt of gratitude.

Let me just for a moment mention a couple of items in the appropriations bill itself. We have in this legislation provided for a Trade Deficit Review Commission. With the announcement once again today that the trade deficit hit another record high, and the trade deficit continues to swell and balloon

on us, I think it is important for our country to do a comprehensive review of what is happening and what is causing it, and what are the range of things we might do to address it.

On this issue, we have worked, in consultation with the Senate Finance Committee, to make some changes that would be satisfactory to them. These changes will be reflected in the managers' amendment, and I think this process of constructing this recommendation has been a very useful process. It has been a collaborative effort with the folks in Senate Finance and others.

As to this Trade Deficit Review Commission, the chairman of the full committee, Senator STEVENS, has been a very strong supporter and a cosponsor; the ranking member, Senator BYRD, from West Virginia, a cosponsor and a very strong supporter as well. I think, especially given the news once again today, it is timely and important, and I appreciate, again, the cooperation of the chairman of the subcommittee.

I want to mention the General Accounting Office which is funded in this bill. The GAO, which most people know it by, normally shows up in stories around the country that are written about the investigations they do. The GAO does first-rate investigative work. It is the investigative arm of Congress. It is not partisan, has never been partisan. It is a group of dedicated professionals who, at the direction of Congress, review and study, investigate, and evaluate a myriad of things we ask them to do about how the money that Congress appropriates is being spent.

The GAO is a very, very important organization. We have cut the GAO substantially over a number of years and now we have tried to stabilize it with the right kind of investments. It is a smaller organization than it was, but it is a strong and assertive organization that does wonderful work for Congress.

I am pleased that the recommendation we have in this particular appropriations bill reaches the level, albeit a much lower level of staffing at the GAO than had been there previously, a level which I think will give it the strength to do the job we expect them to do and the American people expect them to do. Anyone who has read their reports, read the news reports of the studies they have done, knows the value of the GAO.

I do want to make a point that I have made repeatedly as well. I am profoundly disappointed, with respect to the GAO, that 21 months have passed since the departure of the Comptroller General, who is the person who heads the GAO. Comptroller General Bowsher headed the GAO for many, many years, a respected professional in every quarter in this community and around the country.

Twenty-one months ago Mr. Bowsher left the GAO. That was not a surprise because he had reached the end of his rather lengthy term and had announced he was leaving. So we have

had probably over 2 years' notice that position was going to be vacant. I am disappointed to tell my colleagues today that there is still not a permanent head of the GAO. We do not have a Comptroller General. We have someone who is acting. I have great respect for that person; he has done a very good job. But that is not the same as having a permanent head of an organization who is thinking in the intermediate and longer terms about what they hope to accomplish, how they want to run the organization.

I say to my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, all friends of mine, I am sure, if you are one of those whose responsibility it is to help select from a list of premier candidates a new Comptroller General, and you have not yet done that in consultation, I might say, with the White House, please get about your business. Get it done. It is profoundly disappointing to me and many others, and I think the American people, to know that the Comptroller General's position has been unfilled for 21 months. That is not fair to the American people, in my judgment. Those responsible ought to get to work and get this done.

One other item I might mention finally is the Congressional Budget Office. I was pleased that the committee report includes an exchange of letters that results from some items I have raised with the head of the Congressional Budget Office, Dr. June O'Neill.

The Congressional Budget Office was putting out information on a monthly and quarterly basis that talked about the surplus in the Federal budget. The law requires them to put out all the information, not just some of the information. And all of the information by law requires them to tell us not just what the so-called unified budget portrays, but what the budget looks like if you do not include the Social Security trust funds, and that is a different number. There is no budget surplus unless you take the Social Security trust funds and bring them over into the operating budget, there is no surplus. It doesn't exist. And so all of these rosy surpluses put out by CBO and used by some of my friends here in Congress to whet their taste for more tax cuts, all these surpluses are just fiction.

We finally have the CBO now putting out numbers that describe, all right, if you use the Social Security trust funds, here is the unified budget surplus. If you don't use the Social Security trust funds, here is the deficit. Every piece of information they put out, I might say, includes a notation that the Federal debt will continue to increase even as on the unified budget they claim there is a surplus. So that in itself will tell you that the American people need to have all of the information.

I think we are making progress there. I know that those who take the unified budget portion of the CBO reports will hire a band that plays fast music and will dance so fast we can

hardly see them in the next couple of months to try to satisfy this appetite to construct a \$50-, \$100-, \$200 billion tax cut bill. First of all, there is no surplus with which to construct that tax cut. And second, my judgment is that one of the first acts with any bona fide and real surplus ought to be to make some payment on that debt, just begin to ratchet that debt down. I have no idea whether the Senator from Utah agrees with that, but I do recall his presentations on the floor of the Senate, with a very interesting chart in which he looked at this fiscal policy in a way that was different from the way anyone else had looked at it.

I do think it would probably be a wonderful signal to the American people if we would take some part, of any future real surplus—not a fictional surplus but a real surplus—and say we intend, during good times, to try to reduce the actual indebtedness.

I just mention that because a lot of what we do relates to what information we have, and when the Congressional Budget Office is putting out information only about the unified budget and ignoring the section of law that requires disclosure of what the budget situation is if you do not use the Social Security trust funds, it, in my judgment, is giving information to people that is making them far more excited than they should be about a surplus that honestly, at this point, does not exist.

Let me mention, finally, we have some very dedicated people who serve this Congress—officers of the Senate and others who run the agencies and departments. I would like to say many of them have testified before our subcommittee. Many of them do outstanding work. They are not often heralded for that work. There is not a lot of information about the work they do. But I know, because we work late hours and spend a lot of time here, they put in a lot of hours. Their employees put in a lot of hours. We are well served by some people who are in public service here who provide staff assistance to the Congress. We should make mention of that.

One of the other agencies I want to mention finally is the Library of Congress. I know Senator BENNETT and I have had talks with Dr. Billington and others who run that wonderful institution. I think it is an institution that has somewhere around 14 million volumes of work. It is, I am told, the largest repository of human knowledge anywhere on Earth.

Just as an aside, I read a speech by the president of IBM. He was talking about what they are doing on storage technology. He said they are, he thinks, on the edge of research breakthroughs sufficient so that, in the not too distant future, they would be able to put all of the works in the Library of Congress—in other words, all of the largest volume of work of recorded human knowledge anywhere on Earth, on a wafer the size of a penny. Pretty remarkable, isn't it?

But the Library of Congress is a wonderful, important treasury of information for this country. We have had the pleasure of working with them on a wide range of issues. I want to especially compliment the work they are doing, digitizing a lot of their records, and the other things that are happening at the Library of Congress.

So let me conclude where I began, to say it is truly a pleasure to work with Senator BENNETT. He is, I think, an outstanding legislator. I hope at some point we can get the bill up. I hope when we get the bill up, we can get the bill passed and get on with this. But as I indicated in response to the Senator from Kansas, the issue he is talking about is not an insignificant issue, it is a real issue and an issue of some importance. As soon as we can find a way to resolve all these issues, perhaps we can get the legislative branch bill to the floor and get it resolved with some dispatch.

Let me thank the Senator from Kansas for his cooperation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Dakota for his statement. I do want to note what is going on here. The leadership on our side is attempting to get the legislative branch bill to the floor for debate. That is appropriate and that is as it should be. I am simply saying, before we give the legislature its money, let's give some American families their money back in a small tax cut. Actually, I think we could do far better than this, but a tax cut that they should have. The leadership, TRENT LOTT, agrees with me on this and is willing to do that.

We have an objection from the other side of the aisle. The Democrat side of the aisle is not willing to let us take this bill up at this time.

The majority leader is in agreement and wants to do this, wants to have a vote on this particular bill. We cannot get agreement from our Democrat colleagues to agree to vote on this bill. The irony of that is, I think, if we were able to get it up for a vote, there would be a number of my Democrat colleagues who would agree that we should do away with the marriage tax penalty. This is a ridiculous notion, way out of step with all of our rhetoric, way out of step with the rhetoric of everybody running for public office in America, talking about the need to support family and family values.

We tax families more than we do people who are not in a family situation—not that we should penalize those either, but this should just all be level. Many of my colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle, I am convinced, would vote for this. But we are being blocked by my Democrat colleagues from being able to take this up for a vote on a legislative branch bill, and I